

**What is claimed is:**

1. A system comprising:
  - a cellular telephone modem; and
  - a programmable cable comprising a first end connectable to a PLC and a second end connectable to said cellular telephone modem;
  - said programmable cable adapted to store at least one of a plurality of configuration parameters comprising a PIN number;
  - said programmable cable adapted to, in an operative embodiment, automatically configure said cellular telephone modem by communicating at least one of the configuration parameters to said cellular telephone modem.
2. A device comprising:
  - a programmable cable comprising a first end connectable to a PLC and a second end connectable to a network communications device, the network communications device further couplable to a user interface device;
  - said programmable cable adapted to store at least one of a plurality of configuration parameters;
  - in an operative embodiment, said programmable cable adapted to automatically configure the network communications device by communicating at least one of a plurality of configuration parameters to the network communications device comprising a PIN number.
3. The device of claim 2, wherein the network interface device is a cellular telephone modem.
4. The device of claim 2, wherein the network interface device is a telephone modem.
5. The device of claim 2, wherein the configuration parameters further comprise a setup string for the network interface device.

6. The device of claim 2, wherein the network interface device is couplable to the user interface device via a network.
7. The device of claim 2, wherein the network interface device is couplable to the user interface device via a cellular network.
8. The device of claim 2, wherein the network interface device is couplable to the user interface device via the Internet.
9. A device comprising:
  - a programmable cable comprising, a first end connectable to a network couplable to a PLC, and a second end connectable to a network communications device; the network communications device further couplable to a user interface device, the PLC communicable with said user interface using said programmable cable; and
  - said programmable cable programmable to store at least one of a plurality of configuration parameters comprising: a mode of operation, a PPI protocol, a cable locality mode, a data transfer speed, a communication language, and an identifying PIN number.
10. The device of claim 9, wherein said programmable cable further adapted to, in an operative configuration, serve as a token holding master on the network adapted to multiplex networked communications with the PLC.
11. The device of claim 9, wherein in an operative embodiment, said programmable cable adapted to automatically configure the network communications device by communicating at least one of a plurality of configuration parameters to the network communications device.

12. The device of claim 9, wherein said second end of said programmable cable comprises an RS232 network connector.
13. The device of claim 9, wherein said second end of said programmable cable comprises a USB network connector.
14. A method comprising the activities of:
  - providing a programmable cable comprising a first end and a second end, the first end connectable to a PLC, the second end connectable to a cellular telephone modem, a user interface device couplable to a network comprising the programmable cable, the PLC, and the cellular telephone modem; and
  - automatically configuring the cellular telephone modem by the programmable cable.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein said automatically configuring activity occurs during a power-cycling of the programmable cable.
16. The method of claim 14, wherein said automatically configuring activity occurs after power-cycling the programmable cable.
17. The method of claim 14, further comprising automatically from the programmable cable to the network communications device at least one of a plurality of configuration parameters.
18. The method of claim 14, further comprising the programmable cable using the user interface device through the network by setting at least one of a plurality of configuration parameters comprising: a mode of operation, a PPI protocol, a cable locality mode, a data transfer speed, a communication language, and an identifying PIN number.

19. The method of claim 14, further comprising initializing the programmable cable using the user interface device through the network by setting at least one of a plurality of configuration parameters comprising a network communications device setup string and a PIN number.
20. The method of claim 14, further comprising initializing the programmable cable by setting at least one of a plurality of configuration parameters comprising a network communications device setup string and a PIN number.
21. The method of claim 14, further comprising initializing the programmable cable by setting at least one of a plurality of configuration parameters comprising a PIN number.
22. The method of claim 14, wherein said activity of automatically configuring the cellular telephone modem by the programmable cable further comprises communicating at least one of a plurality of configuration parameters, comprising cellular telephone modem setup string and a PIN number, to the cellular telephone modem.
23. The method of claim 14, further comprising encrypting communications between the user interface device and the PLC.
24. The method of claim 14, further comprising encrypting communications between the programmable cable and the PLC.
25. The method of claim 14, further comprising encrypting communications between the programmable cable and the user interface device.

26. A method comprising the activities of:
  - providing a programmable cable comprising a first end connectable to a network and a second end connectable to a network communications device, a user interface device couplable to a network comprising the programmable cable, a PLC, and the network communications device; and
  - automatically communicating from the programmable cable to the network communications device at least one of a plurality of configuration parameters comprising a PIN number.
27. The method of claim 26, further comprising initializing the programmable cable using the user interface device through the network by setting at least one of a plurality of configuration parameters further comprising: a mode of operation, a PPI protocol, a cable locality mode, a data transfer speed, and a communication language.
28. The method of claim 26, wherein the configuration parameters communicated to the network communications device further comprise a network communications device setup string.
29. The method of claim 26, further comprising monitoring data traffic through the programmable cable using a set of status indicators.
30. The method of claim 26, further comprising encrypting communications between the user interface device and the PLC.
31. The method of claim 26, further comprising encrypting communications between the programmable cable and the PLC.
32. The method of claim 26, further comprising encrypting communications between the programmable cable and the user interface device.